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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Court of Appeal to Hold Outreach Session in Ontario February 14

Riverside—Almost 1,000 high school students will attend a special court-community outreach program co-sponsored by the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Two, on Thursday, February 14, starting at 9:05 a.m. The Outreach Plus program will be held at the Chaffey High School, Gardiner W. Spring Auditorium, 1245 N. Euclid Avenue, Ontario. Two criminal appeals will be argued, and the public is welcome to attend.

After oral argument, the justices and appellate court staff will team up with San Bernardino County Bar Association lawyers to talk to students about the California appellate and superior courts, legal careers, and staying in school.

Outreach Plus is a collaborative effort among the Court of Appeal and the San Bernardino County Bar Association; San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Herbert R. Fischer; Chaffey Joint Unified High School District Superintendent, Barry Cadwallader, and Chaffey High School administrators Timothy K. Ward, Principal, and Assistant Principal Joni Siegel.

Joining the justices will be Mark Yanis and David P. Lampkin, counsel for the appellants, and Supervising Deputy Attorney General Peter Quon, Jr. and Deputy Attorney General Ronald A. Jakob.

Cases to be Argued

People v. Serafin, E041958: The defendant was convicted of possessing for sale and transporting methamphetamine and sentenced to state prison for the upper term of four years. In the appeal the defendant contends that there was insufficient evidence to support his conviction for possession of methamphetamine for sale, that the jury was not instructed that they had to unanimously agree as to whether he possessed for sale the three grams

of methamphetamine in his pocket or the 19 baggies of methamphetamine in his pickup truck, and that the trial court failed to have the jury determine the truth of the alleged factors that were the basis for sentencing him to the upper term.

People v. Garcia, E040647: The defendant was convicted of assaulting, battering, and forcefully resisting a police officer. On appeal, the defendant argues that the trial court erred in not excluding evidence derived from a warrantless search of defendant's home, that the jury was not properly instructed in several ways, that a mistrial should have been declared because of the reporter mistakenly reading to the jury excluded testimony about the defendant's prison-style tattoos, that sentences on the battering and resisting an officer counts had to be stayed because they were part of an indivisible course of conduct with a single objective, and that any complaints against the police officer in his confidential personnel file should have been revealed to the defense.

About 'Outreach Plus'

The Court of Appeal launched Outreach Plus in January 2005. The classroom visits are designed to acquaint students with the appellant court system, encourage students to stay in school, and inspire students to consider a career in law. In the past, the Court of Appeal has held oral argument at high schools in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

From 1929 until 1999, the Court of Appeal heard oral argument at its headquarters in San Bernardino, and since 1999 has been headquartered and has heard oral argument in Riverside. The Court of Appeal conducted oral argument in Inyo County for the first time in September 2005.

The Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Two (Riverside) hears appeals from the superior courts of Inyo, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties.

For more information, call Paula Garcia, Assistant Clerk/Administrator, at 951-248-0200.

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